



## **McGREGOR W. SCOTT**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GRANITE BAY MAN DEFRAUDED IN KIDNAPING SCAM**

SACRAMENTO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging AMIER SADEGHPOUR, 53, of Las Vegas, with mail fraud. The charges allege that SADEGHPOUR fraudulently obtained more than \$350,000 by claiming that the funds were needed to secure the release of his daughter, who he falsely claimed was being held in Mexico.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that SADEGHPOUR falsely stated that his daughter was in trouble and being held in Mexico. On or about July 18, 2007, the victim gave SADEGHPOUR \$50,000. SADEGHPOUR signed a promissory note, even though he did not intend to repay the money. SADEGHPOUR contacted the victim a few days later, falsely stating that the kidnappers were demanding additional funds. Based on these misrepresentations, on or about July 18, 2007, the victim mailed SADEGHPOUR a check for \$109,000. On or about July 20, 2007, SADEGHPOUR met with the victim in Granite Bay claiming that he was still unable to secure the release of his daughter. The victim gave SADEGHPOUR an additional \$165,000, as well as \$5,000 cash to help SADEGHPOUR pay for his private return flight to Las Vegas.

When the victim contacted SADEGHPOUR about the status of the money he owed to him, SADEGHPOUR falsely stated that he needed an additional \$16,000 to close a business deal that would result in him obtaining cash to repay. The victim has not been repaid.

The maximum statutory penalty for mail fraud is 20 years in prison and a 3-year term of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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